

JACK ANDERSON GOOD MORNING AMERICA SHOW 27 JANUARY 1981

(Verbatim)

The Central Intelligence Agency is preparing for President Reagan a secret profile of his chief adversary. Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev is now 74. He's played with poor, sometimes painful health. Now the secret CIA assessment states, I'm quoting, "that Brezhnev's major health problems are cardiovascular. He has both hypertension and arterial sclerotic heart disease. He probably has a pacemaker. He's inclined to take too much medication, which affects his mood. Listen to this fascinating excerpt. Brezhnev has been described at times as depressed and at other times as alert, energetic, and animated. He's long been prone to great mood swings. But there is no evidence that his intellectual ability has been significantly affected by these emotional problems, and no sign of a lessening of his judgment or contact with reality. Still on several occasions he has been described as unable to concentrate, inattentive, and fatigued. This could reflect the depletion of his limited physical reserves or the effects of excessive medication. But they can also be symptoms of depression. The Kremlin's czar also suffers, I'm quoting, periodically intense facial pain. This is described in the secret analysis as trigeminal nerve pain. Let me read again from the report. This probably explains some of Brezhnev's unusual behavior, his seemingly unwarranted dissatisfaction with his dental care, the frequent rubbing

of his jaw, excessive salivation, and abrupt disappearance from public view. According to the CIA report, Brezhnev has tried every possible treatment including acupuncture to relieve the pain. Will these health problems finally force the aging Brezhnev to retire? Well, I'll give you the secret CIA assessment of this question tomorrow morning.